

House Republican Press Release

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Drug-Free Schools Coalition Names Rep. Boucher Legislator of the Year



State Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143rd District, Wilton, Norwalk, is the recipient of the Drug-Free Schools Coalition award as “Legislator of the Year” for her efforts in fighting drug abuse in Connecticut.

The national coalition based in New Jersey cited Rep. Boucher for “serving as an example to other legislators nationally.”

“You have been a tireless anti-drug advocate,” the coalition said in a statement announcing the award. “Of all the legislators we have worked with in 2005, you have worked harder and more effectively against strong odds.”

This is the second such award naming Rep. Boucher as a strong opponent of drug use by young people. Recently, she was selected as the first Connecticut legislator to be honored by the state Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association (NEOA) for distinguishing herself in working to combat drug abuse.

In response to the announcement by the Drug-Free Schools Coalition, Rep. Boucher said, “I am truly honored to be recognized by this outstanding organization for our work on drug abuse in Connecticut. It takes a team approach and public advocacy by our parents, local law enforcement and public official working together to make even slight headway in this most difficult, intractable problem. Drug abuse in this country is a daunting societal tragedy of enormous proportions. I sincerely believe that keeping drugs and other dangerous substances out of the hands of young people will help prevent many from suffering permanent physical and physiological damage, not to mention stemming the tremendous loss of young talent.”

Rep. Boucher has been a leading advocate in the legislature for sending a consistent, coherent message that drug abuse is destructive and deadly. She has worked with groups such as the Norwalk-based Courage to Speak Foundation, which includes parents of drug abuse victims in educating the public on the dangers of illegal drugs.

Rep. Boucher has spoken out, particularly on the so-called medical use of marijuana, that marijuana is addictive and causes health problems, rather than alleviates them. She has also worked with state officials and organizations helping to publicize the dangers of

various “club” drugs that can contribute to date rape, unwanted pregnancy and other personal and social issues.

Rep. Boucher serves the 143rd Assembly District of Wilton and Norwalk in the state House of Representatives.